

TAPE INDEX

NARRATOR Jeannette Lyons

INTERVIEWER Phyllis Lotz

PLACE Lyons's Home

DATE Sept. 14, 1979

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Interview with Jeannette Lyons, Interview 3, Santa Ynez, Solvang,
Buellton
Date of Interview: 14 September 1979, Ballard, California
Interviewer: Phyllis Lotz
Transcriber: Phyllis Lotz
Begin Tape 1 C, Side 1

Lyons: Leon Libeu studied law and lives over in the valley, Laurence recently died. Other people living north of Los Olivos was the Fields Family. Mrs. Fields belonged to the Jameson Family of Santa Ynez. Ez Fields had been a rancher for many years and they had a large family. Maud, Grace, Mabel, Jim, Ed and others. They traded at the Dallas Davis store. Dallas Davis opened a movie theater in Los Olivos in 1915.

At the depot in Los Olivos a young man from Boston named Fred Hoar came to town to be depot agent. He was from a very good family in Boston, and was engaged to a young woman from Los Alamos. On the eve of their wedding two men came into the depot and demanded money from the agent. He reached to open the drawer of the desk, they thought he was reaching for a weapon and shot him. The narrow gauge railway brought his people out from Boston to take his body back and the engine was draped with black crepe. The men who had shot him escaped but were found hiding in a barn near Santa Rita, on the way to Lompoc. They brought these men to Mr. Mattei who was Justice of the Peace and people hearing about it formed a posse, my sister remembers hearing the posse ride by. They were going to hang the men at the big oak tree near the station but Mr. Mattei had phoned the sheriff in Santa Barbara and they whisked the men out the back door. I tried to find out what happened to the men but since I did not know their names I could not locate the records.

In Los Olivos in early days there was a druggist who drank very heavily and while he was intoxicated he beat his wife, and at one beating she died, and he was to be hung but a note in the scrapbook says that because the doctors gentle and manly appearance he was given a penitentiary sentence.

Between Ballard and Santa Ynez a number of families lived. Deveny place where the Stevens live now. A teacher in Santa Ynez, Professor Summers lived on this place, they had one daughter who was one of the first students at the high school.

Professor Summers owned land west of the Deveny Place and there was a large grove of Oak trees and the place was called Summers Grove and many times we had our May Day picnics there. North of highschool (Santa Ynez) was a brick building where Mrs. McCoy lived. It was a beautiful place. They are trying to get the house a county landmark. The Delano, Hill Families and Mr. White lived between these two towns.

One of the first families to come to Santa Ynez was the Con Murphy family. Con Murphy was sent by the Catholic Church to Santa Ynez to explore the water possibilities of the area. All of the area included Happy Canyon and belonged to the Church. Con Murphy was given land as payment, he had two children, Margaret, who married a Hill first and later Mke Hourahan. Dan Murphy lived with a woman for many years, he taught penmanship at highschool and was Postmaster in Santa Ynez. Another Murphy family, not related was the Patrick Murphy family. They had Will, Ed, Tom, John, and Joe. John and Joe had one of the stores in Santa Ynez. Another store in Santa Ynez was Mrs. Strahans. She had working for her, Jesse Edsell whose daughter Myrtle married Harold Buell. The Rickers were early settlers. Angie Marie Ricker married Jesse Edsell.

Mrs. Greer was an early pioneer. She came in a covered wagon from the midwest. Her husband died in route in Nevada, she had baby, Della. Mrs. Greer opened a restaurant and small roominghouse. Also later on she had a hall called Greer's Hall where all the public events such as high school graduation, dances, traveling shows were held. Della married John Todd, who was a harness-maker. Mrs. Greer married John Kane, and later married John Lee. Lee had been married before and had two sons, Harry and Buck Lee.

There were many saloons in Santa Ynez, at one time 11 places sold whiskey was sold.

There was a milliner in Santa Ynez, Mrs Lewis, who had a son named Willie, who later became a doctor and practiced for a short time in Santa Ynez. Mrs Lewis ^{had} two brothers, John Cunnan and Dr. William Cunnan, one of the first doctors in the Valley. John Cunnan was a druggist. He married Alice Torrence, of an early family. They had three children, Philip, Margaret, and one other. The Torrences had children, John, who married Abby

Hales of Santa Barbara, and they had three children, Mary, Sam, and Margery. There was a Jim Torrence, but I do not know about that family.

The College Hotel was built by the Santa Ynez Land and Development Co in 1887 and was a famous stage stop. One of those people of the land company was Ben Coons who was a real estate man. Henry Robinson was the first editor of the Santa Ynez Argus, the first newspaper in the Valley. Mr. Dorrence was also with the land company. The Argus was later published by Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Hubble. A number of the high school students worked for the newspaper. It was said that Mrs. Hubble chewed tabacco. A prominent Santa Ynez family was the Jamesons. Molly married Joe Miller, and when he died she married a saloon keeper named Bill Bray. She had a son named Anthony Wayne Miller. A cousin John Miller was killed in an auto accident at the crossroads between Ballard and Santa Ynez. Mrs. Fields was also a Jameson. Mac Jameson married a Miss Sullivan. An early saloon keeper was Joe Brown who had the Ivy Saloon. Across the river from Santa Ynez was what is now the Mitchell Ranch. In olden days it was known as Las Lomas de la Purificacion and was owned by Thomas Moore. Mr. Moore had lived at the mission and had thirteen children born there. He had a store at the mission and at one time they traded hides and tallow. We have at the Museum, the grant of the land to Thomas Moore. One of those children was the mother of Charles Pierce. Mr. Pierce gave the painting of Juan Justo one of the last Chumash. We also have a camphor box that belonged to Mr. Moore where he kept his gold pieces from the trade.

Befor Solvang there were several families who lived in that area. The Donahue family, there were John, Jim, Molly, Katie, Nellie, Lizzie, Jim was foreman of the gang of coolies that built the narrow gauge railroad to Los Olivos. Nellie was a teacher. The Hanly family were living at the end of what is now Alamo Pintado Road on the south. There was Leo, Eva, Margaret, Joe and Don. Several are still living in Solvang.

Near Buellton before there was a town, was the Beattie Family. I had better go back to Santa Ynez and say that there was the

Frank Smith family and the Gardners. These men married Preston sisters. Mr. Preston had one of the early harvesters in the Valley. The Preston sisters married three early settlers. The Smiths had Nellie who married Sam McMurry, Irene married Willie Quinn, and married a minister here in the Valley. The Charlie Gardners had one son James, who later became post master in Lompoc.

The Beatties of Buellton had Will, Ray, Herbert, and Lily. Also in the Buellton area was the Downs family, who had Jack, Sheb, who married Mabel Hartley, Will married Etelka Davis in lived in Los Olivos, Rennie, and Ruth Downs. The Tuckers lived near Buellton, and I went to high school with Lulu Tucker. Later I had her children in school where I taught in the oil fields near Santa Maria. Also the Reckter family, Leona Reckter was a very good friend of mine. Chris Reckter became very high in the Standard Oil Co. He gave the Museum a picture of his father, John Potter Reckter. The de la Cuesta Family had Geraldo and Edwardo of Buellton area, and Leonardo lived in Santa Ynez. Edwardo's children were Micaela, Inez, Sam, Reginald and Dulce. The Buell Family, R.T. Buell had been married in the east to Helen and had five children, only one survived to maturity, Linus who married Annie Smith. Then R.T. married again to Emily Budd of Pennsylvania, and had Rufus, Jr. Walter, Odin, Glenn and Gertrude. Linus had Frank, Ava, and Eddie.

End of Side 1, Tape 1 C

One of the old families of the Valley were the Ontiveros. Tom Ontiveros married one of the Gonzales girls who had a small ranch in Happy Canyon. It was quite a large family. Tom had a brother named Leonandro. They were a famous old family family. They had originally come from Spain and they had fought in the Napolianic Wars. They had been given a sword to recognize what they had done for that country and the sword is somewhere in the family. Mrs. Ontiveros has traveled many places to try and find out about this sword. Tom had a number of children, Adolpho, Laurence, are two that I know about. Laurence worked for the county roads department.

Adrulfo Lopez was another old timer of the Valley. At the Museum

we have a collection of his trophies from the times he worked at the Alisal and other ranches in the Valley. He had many descendants. His father worked at the Olive Mill for Mr. Boyd and Mr. Selby. Adrulfo as a little boy drove the mule that ground the olives. The animal's name was Whitie.

My sister Grace in one of her first schools on San Marcos Pass writes about that school considered part of the Santa Ynez area. Some of the families up there on the pass were the Fillmores, Hiltons, and Step Family. My sister boarded with the Steps. A Step daughter married Leo Hanly. The Fillmores had a large family, one was Julia who at 16 married a tramp, Frank Knight, and they had many children among them were Clyde, Violet. Frank Knight later was a sheriff in Santa Ynez. By the way none of the trustees of my sister's school on San Marcos Pass could read or write and when they paid bills they had to make a mark. Two early people in Santa Ynez were Jim and Billy Anderson. They had come from Scotland by way of Canada, and ran a blacksmith shop. Billy made from old things around the shop the first auto, gas driven automobile that was driven in the Valley. Billy Anderson had two sons, Jack, a local fireman, and Jim who taught school in Santa Barbara. For many years Jack had the old bell from the wrecked engine 106 at the fire station, in Buellton, his brother Jim gave the bell to the Museum.

Another family from Buellton were the Mankins. There was Ernest, Alvin, Zella Mankins who attended the old Jonata School. The Tellfords lived near Buellton on the Lompoc Road, Edward and Cynthia were the children.

Near Los Olivos the John Smith family lived. Mrs. Smith was a sister of John Potter Rector. The Smiths had Edward, Jesse, Bertha, Mary, Annie, who married Linus Buell, Dica who married Ernest Hartley. It was said that Jess Smith jumped his horse off a cliff working for the old Flying A film studio of Santa Barbara. He was a cowboy.

The first owner of the Alisal was the Carrillo Family. It is said that when the early Spanish Explorers marched up through the Valley, Carrillo remarked that he would one day own the land. Next owner was Unpano Yndart, a man from Spain. He married his cousin at Mission Santa Barbara. He owed the Alisal off and on

through the years. It has been discovered above the golf course at the Alisal, the foundation of an adobe that may be Mr. Yndarts. A later owner was a man named Pierce, also a Murphy owned it. Now it belongs to the Jacksons.

Cordero Family lived south of Nojoqui, and at one time owned the Las Cruses Rancho.

The Robles family ran a livery stable in Santa Ynez and were early settlers.

End of Side 2, Tape 1 C